

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MEL), CH

SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE - PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESS
RELEASE ISSUED APRIL 9 ON CODEL PRICE VISIT TO PRC:

QUOTE: HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MELVIN
PRICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WILL
VISIT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) DURING THE
FORTHCOMING CONGRESSIONAL EASTER RECESS, APRIL 15 THROUGH
25, 1976.

THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WAS INVITED TO VISIT THE PRC
BECAUSE OF THE EXPRESSED INTEREST OF MANY MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES AND THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE IN THE LONG-TERM INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICA-
TIONS OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PRC.

THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN
MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE PRC, INCLUDING
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CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG, AND THE NEWLY-DESIGNATED REPLACEMENT

FOR CHOU EN-LAI, HUA KUO-FENG. THE DELEGATIO, ALSO HOPES TO VISIT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND ACTIVITIES AND TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRC MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S TRIP AT THIS TIME, CHAIRMAN PRICE SAID: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT FEW THINGS TODAY HAVE A GREATER BEARING ON THE ADEQUACY OF OUR OWN WORLD-WIDE DEFENSIVE POSTURE THAN THE STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE SOVIET UNION. FOR THAT REASON I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT OUR COMMITTEE CANNOT PROPERLY DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN DETERMINING THE LONG-RANGE MILITARY POSTURE OF OUR NATION WITHOUT HAVING THE BEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC AND THE PLANS AND OBJECTIVES OF ITS LEADERS. RECENT CHANGES IN THE TOP CHINESE LEADERSHIP MAKE THIS UPCOMING TRIP OF EVEN GREATER VALUE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE."

THE DELEGATION PLANS ON DEPARTING WASHINGTON, D.C. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1976, WITH AN OVERNIGHT STOP IN TOKYO, JAPAN, AND ARRIVAL IN SHANGHAI, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1976. THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONTEMPLATES REMAINING IN THE PRC UNTIL FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1976, AT WHICH POINT IT WILL BEGIN ITS RETURN TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES.

DETAILS CONCERNING THE ITINERARY OF THE DELEGATIO' DURING ITS STAY IN THE PRC HAVE NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND WILL BE PROVIDED THE VISITING DELEGATION UPON ITS ARRIVAL IN SHANGHAI.

THE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY CHAIRMAN MELVIN PRICE (D-ILL.). OTHER MEMOERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES MAKING THE TRIP INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVE BOE WILSON (R-CALIF.), REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL S. STRATTON (D-N.Y.), REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD H. ICHORD (D-MO.), REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM J. RANDALL (D-MO.), REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM L. DICKINSON (R-ALA.), AND REPRESENTATIVE G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST (R-VA.).

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MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHO WILL BE MAKING THE TRIP IHCLUDE REPFESENTATIVE LESTER L. WOLFF (D-N.Y.), AND REPRESENTATIVE J. HERBERT PURKE (R-FLA.).

SOME MEMBERS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR SPOUSES AT NO EXPENSE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO
WASHINGTON, D.C. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1 76, AT WHICH TIME
THE DELEGATION HOPES TO ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT REFLECTING
THE OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE VISIT TO THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. END QUOTE.
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